

THURSDAY, NOV. 11, 1999 “ 11:00 A.M.

Presentation of the Purple Heart Medal\* to Ms. Betty Brown Holmes, niece to Lt. William H. Kane

<b>WHO</b>	:	Congressman John Olver
		Ms. Betty Brown Holmes, niece to Lt. William H. Kane
		Samuel and Peg Genovese (finders of Lt. Kane°s military memorabilia)
<b>WHEN:</b>		Thursday, November 11, at conclusion
<b>WHERE:</b>		Parker Park, Westfield
<b>WHY:</b>		To honor the life and sacrifice of Lt.
<b>WHAT:</b>		At the conclusion of the Westfield V

*\*Special Background*

Several years ago, while browsing at a local tag sale, Peg and Samuel Genovese of Westfield saw a large box filled with articles pertaining to the Knights of Columbus. Since Peg°s father had been a K of C member, she bought the box and all its contents for \$1 dollar. Under the K of C memorabilia she later discovered several official military documents and personal effects belonging to the Kane family regarding the death of their son. The items included:

- “ original Western Union telegram notice of Lt. Kane°s wounds and subsequent death
- “ his last paycheck - awarded to his parents
- “ hand written letters from the Field Medic (who treated him), his Platoon Sergeant and a condolence letter from then US Senator John Wingate Weeks dated January 8, 1919.

Lt. William H. Kane was severely wounded in action in France on September 28, 1918, and later died on October 6, 1918. His family never received any medals. Lt. Kane was the only Westfield Commissioned Officer to lose his life in WWI.

Due to military protocol the VA will only present medals for deceased veterans to immediate next of kin, not a niece, cousin, etc. Therefore, special permission had to be obtained from Congressman John Olver. Oliver worked with the Westfield Veterans Council to persuade the Army that this was a unique case. They were eventually granted special permission on October 25th of this year. The engraved

Medal is accompanied by a citation from the President.

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